

RECKLESS RALPH'S DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers. Pub. by RALPH F. CUMMINGS, Box 75, Fisherville, Mass., U.S.A.

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DIME NOVEL BONANZA

By J. Edward Leithead.

Being by no means as familiar with novels and story papers of the "black and white" era, as the later period of "colored covers", perhaps I'm not competent to write about Charles H. Austin's remarkable collection. Furthermore, Brother Bob Smeltzer has written us a splendid article on the same subject, back in 1935. But, having been very cordially received and shown his mammoth aggregation, by Mr. Austin, I can at least set down my impressions. And I was impressed, believe me. I had no idea there was such a variety of black and whites, from pocket to newspaper size.

Pard Bob already has spoken of the more than two hundred framed dime and nickel novels, story papers, novel fotes by French, and news clippings about novels (President Ralph Cumming's picture is among them); that cover the walls, and it is an impressive sight you will see only once in a lifetime. Standing out in my recollection, are two large colored portraits of Buffalo Bill, one as a young man, the other when his hair had turned white. Also a framed copy of a large size black and white I had never heard of, before, "Wild Oats", picturing Jim Fiske, old-time Broadway playboy, and Josie Mansfield, who shot him.

Mr. Austin has the very earliest Beadles, the original yellowbacks, small pocket volumes, and in finest condition. He keeps much of his collection in large metal boxes, stacked after stack of them, which defy dust and time. I remarked that the portrait on one yellowback cover, containing the life of U.S. Grant, looked more like "Stonewall" Jackson, and he agreed. He has numerous hand-colored Beadles' Dime Pocket Novels, some of these later reprinted in Beadles' Dime Library, and one, "The Wolf Doman" has a particularly startling cover of a sinister-looking fellow clad from head to foot in a wolfskin.

I saw a copy of that rarity, "Wild Bill, the Pistol Prince" in Beadle's Pocket Library; and there are also, the "Deadwood Dick" novels in Beadle's Half-Dime Library. The famous "Malaoska". in Beadle's Dime Novels, is to be seen in condition as good as when first issued.

For the first time, I beheld Old King Brady in a black and white library, "Old King Brady Among the Indians." with a highly thrilling picture of the famous old detective, at the stake, with yelling redskins surrounding him.

Mr. Austin keeps various series about the same characters, wither in loose or bound form, together. For instance, the six or seven numbers of Beadle's Dime, about Tiger Dick, and those about Dick Talbot and Yank Yellowbird. There are many of Captain Whittaker's excellent stories, and the cover of one, "Old Cross-Eye, the Maverick Hunter," is worthy of mention. In the foreground several black-headed horsemen, with flaming torches, are cutting a barbed wire fence. In the background, a party of Indians, brandishing their lances, are coming up at speed. A weird moon lights the scene. This is one of a series

of three, the other two being, "The Marshal of Satanstown" and "Top Notch Tom, the Cowboy Outlaw,"

Many items in the collection were bought direct from Colonel Prentiss Ingraham's son, who died just last year. Some of these were pocket novels printed in eight different colors, in fine condition and exceedingly rare. Colonel Ingraham's pirate stories were favorites of Mr. Austin's and he has them all together in one file; also heaps of mint copies of Ingraham's "Buffalo Bill" novels, in both Dime and Half-Dime Libraries. Other favorites of Mr. Austin in Beadle's Dime, are the "Flash Fred" series by Edward Willett. A rare one, bound with other Dimers, is, "Old Frosty, the Guide," with exciting cover illustration of an Indian village, and a young squaw driving a buck out of the village with a whip.

All the Jack Harkaways and Dick Lightheart from Wide Awake Library, are present in bound volumes. In fact, not a few duplicate pocket-size novels are bound in cloth individually, and some in fancier bindings which cost 50¢ each. There is a huge file of Police Gazettes of ancient vintage, yet in the best of condition; old-time cigarette cards of ball-players, prize fighters, and Flags of All Nations. One of Connie Mack, as a young player, and another of the father of Geraldine Farrar, the opera singer, in his baseball togs.

Old theatre programs-Circus and Wild West Show and prize fight programs; one of Pawnee Bill's Wild West, when he was going it alone, before he became Buffalo Bill's partner in show business. Last, but not least, a beautifully colored book, "Book of Champions", on the first page of which, are the four champion shots, Annie Oakley, Dr. Carver, Captain Bogardus, and Colonel Cody.

Bradle's Yellowbacks, Pocket Novels, Boys' Libraries; large and small New Dimes, Dime and Half Dime, Star Journals, Campfire, Wide Awake, Army and Navy, War Library, Little Chiefs, Boys of N.Y., Log Cabins, Old Cap Collier Gleasons Pictorials, New York Detective, Young Sleuth, Franke Reade Library--these and many more, too numerous to mention, are to be found in Mr. Austin's amazing collection.

How are these for a bunch of red hot alliterative titles, all in Beadle's Dime Library :

- 459-Major Sunshine, the Man of Three Lives, or The Waiting Waifs of Git Thar.
- 474-Daddy Dead-eye, the Despot of Dew-drop, or The Damsel from Deseret.
- 479-Gladiator Gabe, the Samson of Sassa Jack, or, Yank Yellowbird's Castle Crusade.
- 491-Zigzag and Cutt, The Invincible Detectives, or, A Precious Set of Scoundrels.
- 504-Solemn Saul, the Sad Man from San Saba, or The Big Shollout.
- 506-Uncle Honnsst, the Peacemaker of Hornet's Nest, or, Yank Yellowbird Versus the Leather Jackets.
- 514-Gabe Gunn, the Grizzly from Ginseng, or, Solemn Saul's Seraph.
- 535-Dandy Dutch, the Decorator from Dead-Lift or, Saul Sunday's Search for Glory.
- 541-Major Magnet, the Man of Nerve, or, The Muck-a-Mucks of Animas.
- 549-Belshazzer Brick, the Bailiff of Blue Blazes, or, Four Horse Frank's Frolic at Bad Luck Bar.
- 552-Prince Primrose, the Flower of the Flock, or, The Grand Camp at Paradise Gulch.
- 555-Grip-sack Gid, the Sample Sport, or, The Rivals of Rock-about Range.
- 558-Hurrah Harry, the High Horse from Halcyon or, High Old Times at Hard Pan.

563-Wyoming Zeke, the Hotspur of Honeysuckle,
or, Old Humility's Hard Road to Travel.
Sound like real thrillers, don't they ?

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EMMETT DALTON

The Last of the Dalton Boys-Died July 12th, age 66, after a long illness. He was an Honorary Member of the Happy Hours Brotherhood. He was a retired and respected citizen at his death. He was once a member of the notorious Dalton Gang that terrorized the Middle-West, before the turn of the century. He was the author of, "When the Daltons Rode," also "Prison Delivery" and others. May his soul rest in peace, for we know he has gone to join his friends, and thank the good Lord that his suffering is over.

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CONTEST WINNERS.

Nobody got the 100% rating to win the cash prize.

Bill Burns got the highest and received 1st prize of fifty novels. He was far ahead of all the rest as might be expected.

J.E. Leithhead was second and received 15 novels.

Ralph Adimare was a close third, receiving 12 novels.. The winners selected their own Novels, receiving their special "wants".

Here are the correct replies:

1. Old King Brady appeared in N.Y. Detective Library, Secret Service, and Pluck and Luck No. 170 (The Red Leather Bag).

2. First Frank Rende Story-The Steam Man of the Plains, or, The Terror of the West, by Harry Enton. In Boys of N.Y. Publisher-Norman L. Munro (NOT Tousey).

3. "Dan Manly" was the first pitcher of the "double" curve. The stories appeared in Half Dime Library, Nos. 531-608. The author was

Geo.C.Jonks (his real name).

4.Golden Hours published as a weekly by Norman L.Munro.Golden Hours published as a monthly by Hithcock & Walden,Cincinnati.

5.Robert (Bill) Brown, and Fulton Oursler both wrote for Tousey.(both living).

6.The Unknown-appeared in Young Klondike Library.

7. No.17 Ivers Deadwood Dick library was issued as Deadwood Dick of Deadwood. After printing,it was withdrawn,and instead,was published,Rosebud Bob, or Nugget Ned,the Knight of the Gulch. The first story was later reissued as No.35 of this Library.

8.Muldoon Abroad was first published as a serial story in Young Men of America.It was reprinted in 1884,in Wide Awake Special No. 15. It was again reprinted in 1890,in Wide Awake No.967.

9.Tousey-James Boys stories appeared in Young Men of America,Golden Weekly,Boys of New York,Happy Days,Wide Awake Library,N.Y. Detective Library,and James Boys Weekly.

10.Upton Sinclair wrote the Spanish American War stories for Street & Smith,in the True Blue Library.

REMEMBER WHEN

Those were the good old days,boys !
Remember when you could buy a new Street & Smith novel every day (or two a day,counting the Tousey output):Rough Rider Weekly was issued every Monday-Buffalo Bill Stories, every Tuesday-Brave and Bold,and,Bowery Boy Library came out Wednesday-Diamond Dick,Jr. and Boys Best Weekly,on Thursday-Tip Top Weekly on Friday-and Nick Carter Weekly on Saturday..Tousey issued Yankee Doodle-Young Klondike, and Young Glory,semi-monthly (not weekly).

FELLOW READERS AND COLLECTORS

A story, "Nevada Gold", written by J. Edward Leithhead, will appear in the second August issue of Ranch Romances, on sale July 23rd. It's a Western Novel featuring "Reckless Ralph" Cummings, your president of the Happy Hours Brotherhood, in the role of a prospector and I hope all the fellows will like this fine story of Bro. Leithhead's.

 NOVEL NEWS

Fred Singleton tells us his press will be set up in Miami, soon, and that within the next few months, the first issues of his dime novel magazine will be out. We look forward to some fine stuff from this Master Printer. Best of luck, Fred.

Paul Marosko is taking a few months vacation out in the country. Will no doubt spend some of his time scouring around for the elusive dime novel.

Boys, those of you who failed to enter that prize contest, missed out plenty. The winners got comparatively few answers right, and for their trouble, received many novels they wanted, which money could not buy.

A fine article on dime novels will soon appear in newspapers all over the country. The Associated Press sent a representative to interview a prominent dime novel collector, for the data.

Ralph Cummings sez membership in Brotherhood is the highest in its history. Much of this is due to the untiring efforts of that fine chap, Bill Burns, whose popularity is surely deserved.

Charles Bragin broadcasted a talk on dime novels on a coast-to-coast program, over the Mutual Broadcasting System, June 29th.

Most of the lads are taking a vacation from dime novels, with the warm weather calling them outdoors.

PARTIAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF H.H.B.-1937.

No.71-Ray Mengar, 1429 W.88th Pl., Los Angeles
California. (New Member)

No.72-Willis E.Hurd, 3500 22nd St., North
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of which this is a REPRINT.

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San Francisco, California.

A.Castillo, -Guasimal, Sti.Spiritus, Cuba.

S.B.Condon, South Penobscot, Me.

Charles H.Austin of Philadelphia had two
ads in this issue, one a large one with
many items for sale.

M.E.Marsh of Ithaca, N.Y. had the entire
back page of this particular issue.

(REPRINT)